

Washington, DC -- Today, U.S. Representative Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) announced that Opportunities for Chenango, Inc will receive a \$1,319,764 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for Head Start and Early Head Start programs.

“As the father of two children, I know how important it is to provide all children with a solid foundation so they can succeed in school and later on in the workplace,” **Arcuri said**. “I am glad to announce this grant to help Opportunities for Chenango continue to help all children succeed.”

“We’re thrilled to receive this refunding for 2009,” **said Karen Randall, Opportunities for Chenango Head Start Director**. “It allows us to provide children and family development services to 319 families through Chenango County.”

Opportunities for Chenango, Inc provides Preschool Head Start programming for 221 children and Early Head Start for 98 children and families. Preschool programs include part day classroom activities and home visits with families to work on family goals and child development activities. Early Head Start programs work with families of infants and toddlers on child development, health and nutrition.

In the 110th Congress, Arcuri voted for the Improving Head Start Act of 2007 (H.R.1429) to improve and reauthorize federal funding for Head Start programs through 2012. Head Start was created in 1965 and provides the most vulnerable preschool-aged children with a pre-kindergarten education, health and nutrition programs, and social development activities.

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